

DPS and the Department of Homeland Security.

What are they hiding? Why is a law enforcement agency in Texas destroying records and a Federal agency refusing to release them? Were there political efforts to involve Federal law enforcement for purely political and partisan reasons? What are these agencies trying to cover up?

It does not pass the smell test.

While we have new international terrorist threats, a new high alert yesterday, we were looking for Texas Democrats last week. Secretary Ridge and the Department of Homeland Security are needlessly suffering a credibility gap.

Mr. Speaker, if there is nothing incriminating or embarrassing on the tapes, then there is nothing to cover up. Release the tapes and all the records. Do not destroy them.

VIETNAM VETERANS MOVING WALL

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom, our servicemen and women.

This Monday is Memorial Day, a day when America will recognize those who have served our country in war and peace. This weekend in our district I will visit the Moving Wall, a small replica of the sacred Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The Moving Wall is a half-sided replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial which is in Washington. It has been touring the country for nearly 20 years.

The Moving Wall allows people who cannot visit the breathtaking Vietnam Veterans Memorial a chance to experience this legendary landmark. The Moving Wall will be in Allen, Texas, open to the public 24 hours a day from May 24 to May 30 at Bethany Lakes Park. I encourage the people of north Texas to visit this excellent tribute to our veterans. God bless our servicemen and women. I salute you. May God bless America.

HONORING TAIWAN PRESIDENT CHEN

(Mr. SESSIONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to congratulate Taiwan President Chen on his third anniversary in office.

Taiwan and the United States have enjoyed a close relationship with each other for more than 50 years, both economically and politically. I hope that in the very near future we will increase trade opportunities with Taiwan by launching trade negotiations on a free

trade agreement with Taiwan. America must let all countries know that we firmly stand behind the Taiwan Relations Act and that we believe that a peaceful solution is the only answer to the so-called Taiwan issue.

I also strongly support Taiwan's democratization at home and its campaign to join international organizations abroad. Taiwan is a strong ally of ours which stood shoulder to shoulder with the United States after 9/11. To Taiwan and President Chen I say, America appreciates your friendship and partnership.

MILITARY WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, next week the Nation will celebrate Memorial Day. A fitting celebration of Memorial Day in this House would be to crack down on the waste, fraud, and abuse at the Pentagon so that we can better equip our troops and we can meet our obligations to our veterans.

At the run-up to the last war, the Pentagon was scrambling to find chemical and biological suits. But it turned out that another part of the Pentagon had put them up for sale for surplus on the Internet, usable suits, and were selling them for pennies on the dollar at the same time that we did not have enough to go around in the field.

But that is nothing new at the Pentagon. They have misplaced \$1 trillion, T, trillion, not million, not billion, trillion dollars according to the GAO. They lost 56 airplanes, 32 tanks, 36 Javelin missile command launch units. They spent \$20 billion trying to overhaul their accounting system, and then abandoned that effort.

That did not help one soldier in the field, did not help one veteran, did not help the Nation. Waste, fraud, and abuse by contractors and bureaucrats is not patriotic. Let us clean up the Pentagon. Let us do something in the bill today to make certain this no longer occurs.

READINESS AND RANGE PRESERVATION INITIATIVE HURTS THE ENVIRONMENT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the Readiness and Range Prevention Initiative proposed by the Department of Defense. This initiative would provide exemptions to the United States military from enforcing and abiding by the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act, two very important pieces of legislation that have for decades provided safeguards and protections to our environment.

Many of our bases are home to critical habits and endangered species, especially, for example, Camp Pendleton, which is very near my district, where there are currently 17 endangered species.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative is harmful, it is unnecessary, and it is an attack on our environment. Laws already exist that provide exemptions for the military for purposes of national security. The military just has not bothered to enact those. There is absolutely no need for the type of broad-based policy such as the Readiness and Range Prevention Initiative.

We were able to defeat this measure last year, and I am confident that we will do it again this year. There is no evidence that suggests that our military should be exempted from these laws.

DAMAGING THE AMERICAN INSTITUTION OF JUSTICE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is a time that we desire to honor those who have served us by committing the ultimate sacrifice, and I look forward to joining my communities on Monday and being reminded of the great service of our valiant troops throughout the years and months and days, weeks and minutes, for they are ever with us.

I rise this morning because sadly I believe that all we stand for in this House and in this Congress and in this Nation, democracy, freedom and respect for law, has certainly been damaged by the reckless, foolish and irresponsible destruction of documents that the Department of Public Safety in Texas has engaged in after tracking innocent civilian Texas legislators who happen to be Democratic and who happen to be respecting their democratic process.

□ 1030

It is interesting that the order said, "Any notes, correspondence, photos, et cetera, that were obtained pursuant to the absconded House of Representatives members shall be destroyed immediately. No copies are to be kept. Any questions, please contact me," the message said. It is unusual for these matters to be destroyed. They cannot track down who gave the order. I would say track it to the Governor's house.

It is imperative the Congress begin an investigation immediately; that the Department of Justice investigate this and the U.S. Homeland Security Department. Our responsibilities are to the American people, to keep them safe, to provide them with a standard of law and order; and we are not to abuse our power. We must investigate now.